

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-10 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add the following new claims:

BE

--11. A flexible container with a sealable closure system comprising:

an envelope (type) enclosure having impermeable walls;

an opening being defined at an upper portion of the enclosure;

two rigid bars being configured to tightly engage edges of the opening in order to seal the enclosure closed;

at least one of the two rigid bars being movable; and

a system for locking the two rigid bars together,

wherein the system for locking the two rigid bars together engages the two rigid bars at both ends of the rigid bars.

12. The flexible container of claim 11, wherein the flexible container is adapted to store valuables in a nautical environment.

13. The flexible container of claim 11, wherein the flexible container is adapted to

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be opened and closed often.

14. The flexible container of claim 11, wherein the two rigid bars are arranged parallel to one another.

15. The flexible container of claim 11, wherein each of the two rigid bars are movably mounted to the enclosure and are each configured to be correctly positioned adjacent an edge of the enclosure before tightening.

16. The flexible container of claim 11, further comprising a flap.

17. The flexible container of claim 16, wherein at least one of the rigid bars is coupled to the flap.

18. The flexible container of claim 17, wherein the other of the two rigid bars is coupled to one of the flap and an outer surface of one of the impermeable walls.

19. The flexible container of claim 11, wherein the system for locking the two rigid bars together comprises at least one of locking elements and foldable tongues.

20. The flexible container of claim 11, wherein the system for locking the two rigid bars together comprises foldable tongues, each foldable tongue having an opening that is sized to confine one end of each of the two rigid bars.

21. The flexible container of claim 11, wherein the system for locking the two rigid bars together comprises locking members, each locking member having an opening that is sized to confine one end of each of the two rigid bars.

B4 22. The flexible container of claim 11, wherein the system for locking the two rigid bars together comprise elastic lugs, each elastic lug having a projection which releasably engages one end of at least one of the two rigid bars.

23. The flexible container of claim 11, wherein the system for locking the two rigid bars together comprise elastic lugs, each elastic lug having one end that is attached to one of the two rigid bars and another end which releasably engages one end the other of the two rigid bars.

24. The flexible container of claim 11, further comprising a compressible member arranged on an inner surface of at least one of the edges of the opening.

25. The flexible container of claim 11, further comprising a compressible member arranged on an inner surface of each of the edges of the opening.

26. The flexible container of claim 25, wherein each compressible member is attached to an edge by one of gluing and fixing.

Bd 27. The flexible container of claim 25, wherein the compressible members are configured to movably engage each other when the enclosure is opened and closed.

28. The flexible container of claim 25, wherein the compressible members are arranged opposite one another.

29. The flexible container of claim 11, wherein the edges are configured to be stiffened by strips made of a metal or a synthetic material.

30. The flexible container of claim 11, wherein the flexible container is adapted to at least one of trap air or gas and to float.

31. The flexible container of claim 11, wherein the impermeable walls are deformable.

32. The flexible container of claim 11, further comprising a flap having a mechanism for releasably securing the flap on one of the impermeable walls.

33. A flexible container with a sealable closure system comprising:

an envelope type enclosure having impermeable walls;

an opening being defined at an upper portion of the enclosure;

two rigid bars being configured to tightly engage edges of the opening in order to seal the enclosure closed;

one of the two rigid bars being positioned against one of the impermeable walls when the enclosure is closed;

another of the two rigid bars being positioned against another of the impermeable walls when the enclosure is closed; and

a system for locking the two rigid bars together,

wherein the system for locking the two rigid bars together engages the two rigid bars.

34. A flexible container with a sealable closure system comprising:

an envelope type enclosure having impermeable walls and a flap;

an opening being defined at an upper portion of the enclosure;

two rigid bars being configured to tightly engage edges of the opening in order to seal

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the enclosure closed;

one of the two rigid bars being positioned against one of the impermeable walls when the enclosure is closed;

another of the two rigid bars being positioned against another of the impermeable walls when the enclosure is closed; and

34 a system for locking the two rigid bars together,

wherein the system for locking the two rigid bars together engages the two rigid bars,

wherein at least one of the rigid bars is coupled to the flap, and

wherein the other of the two rigid bars is coupled to one of the flap and an outer surface of one of the impermeable walls.--

Remarks

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested prior to examination of the application and calculation of filing fees.

Applicant notes that the claims have been amended strictly to ensure closer compliance with U.S. patent practice and not for a reason related to patentability or for a reason related to distinguishing the invention over any known prior art reference. Accordingly, Applicant submits that no estoppel should apply to any limitation recited in any of the so amended claims.